(b) if so, whether both countries are willing to talk and discuss;

(c) if so, whether India is considering to improve its relations with Nepal;

(d) if so, the total investment of the country in Nepal in regard to education, health and tourism; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Nepal Government in signing a new treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a), (b) and (e) The existing Trade Treaty between India and Nepal was signed in 1991 and subsequently amended in 1996 and 2002. The two sides are currently reviewing the Trade Treaty to further boost bilateral trade.

During the visit of the former Prime Minister of Nepal to India in September 2008, both sides agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and other agreements while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship. It was agreed that a High-Level committee at the level of Foreign Secretaries would be set up for this purpose. There has been no further development in this matter.

(c) India and Nepal share close and friendly political, economic, cultural and social ties, which are unique and have stood the test of time. Our relations with Nepal will continue to be a matter of highest priority for India. During the visit of Foreign Secretary to Nepal on June 20-21, 2009, our commitment to support Nepal was reiterated to the new government of Nepal. Both sides also agreed to take the bilateral relations forward.

(d) Indian investment in Nepal in regard to health, education and tourism amounts to over Rs. 380 crore. In addition, GOI's economic cooperation programme in Nepal is broad based, and includes education and health sectors.

Discussion held with China

2144. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Chinese officials discussed host of issues related to expansion of defence, economic ties and trade;

(b) if so, whether Chinese have expressed interest in the deepening economic ties with India by helping build infrastructure for 2010 Commonwealth Games also;

(c) if so, the outcome of the discussions held and to what extent and both have agreed for extension of defence and economic ties;

(d) whether any agreement was signed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (e) Government officials of India and China have been regularly discussing the entire range of issues related to bilateral relations including economic

and defence ties in various dialogue mechanisms. In these interactions, both sides have agreed to a trade target of US$ 60 billion by 2010. They have also agreed to strengthen defence relations in accordance with the MoU for Exchanges and Cooperation in the field of Defence signed in 2006. The two sides have held two rounds of annual defence dialogue and conducted joint military exercise in 2007 and 2008. The two sides have not discussed China's participation in building infrastructure for the Commonwealth Games of 2010.

Nuclear test by North Korea

2145. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of nuclear test by North Korea, recently;

(b) if so, whether Government has described the nuclear test by North Korea as a development of serious concern;

(c) if so, whether in view of such developments, Government proposes to have eternal vigilance to meet any challenge to the national security from any quarter; and

(d) if so, the further reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) In a statement on 25th May, 2009 External Affairs Minister said, "We have seen reports that DPRK has conducted a nuclear test on 25 May, 2009. For the DPRK to conduct such a test in violation of its international commitments would be unfortunate. Like others in the international community we are concerned at the adverse effect on peace and security in that region of such tests. We continue to monitor the situation."

(c) and (d) Government monitors all such developments which have a bearing on national security and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security.

List of Pakistan's citizens involved in terror attacks

†2146. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has handed over the list of Pakistani citizens alleged to be involved in terrorist attacks in the country to Government of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the total number of people included in this list upto June, 2009;

(c) whether it has been requested to hand over these people to India or to prosecute them in Pakistan; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.